

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 070086  
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 /071 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:JJHELBLE:MGH  
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE  
-----311114Z 059145 /22  
R 300049Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070086

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BM, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR U TIN LAT'S CALL ON ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

1. AMBASSADOR U TIN LAT CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE MARCH 29. IT WAS HIS FIRST FORMAL CALL IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.
2. U TIN LAT INDICATED SATISFACTION WITH THE U.S.-BURMESE JOINT EFFORT AGAINST NARCOTICS, AND INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD FROM PRESIDENTIAL NARCOTICS ADVISER DR. BOURNE THAT SOME ADDITIONAL U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM, AS WELL AS FOR GENERAL HEALTH PROGRAMS, MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. HOLBROOKE EXPRESSED U.S. APPRECIATION FOR BURMESE EFFORTS AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, AND EMPHASIZED OUR CONTINUING AND INCREASING INTEREST IN THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM.

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3. U TIN LAT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF AID DONORS, EMPHASIZING THAT THE GUB COULD USE COM-MODITY OR MEDIUM OR LONG-TERM LOANS, BUT MUST AVOID ANY EXTENSIVE USG PRESENCE ASSOCIATED WITH AN AID PROGRAM. IN RESPONSE, HOLBROOKE NOTED THAT U.S.-BURMESE RELATIONS,

OVER A PERIOD OF TIME, SEEM TO HAVE IMPROVED GRADUALLY, AND THE U.S. IS HOPEFUL THAT IN THE POST INDOCHINA CONTEXT THESE RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO ADVANCE. HE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE BEST FOR BOTH SIDES PROBABLY IF THE U.S. DID NOTHING DRAMATIC OR SUDDEN WHICH COULD BE DIFFICULT FOR BURMA IN ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. HE INDICATED SPECIFICALLY HE COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENTS WITH RESPECT TO AID TO BURMA AS THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT YET CONSIDERED THE ISSUE IN DETAIL. ANY ACTION WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL.

4. IN A MORE GENERAL VEIN, U TIN LAT SPOKE OF BURMA'S NEED TO MAINTAIN A WARY EYE ON THE CHINESE. HE NOTED THE DOMINATION OF THE BCP BY THE PRC, AND THE CONTINUING TWO-TRACK POLICY OF THE PRC, I.E. GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AND PARTY-TO-PARTY RELATIONS. HE STATED IT IS TOO EARLY TO ASSESS WHETHER THE NEW LEADERS IN CHINA WILL ALTER PAST PATTERNS OF BEHAVIOR. WITH RESPECT TO ASEAN, U TIN LAT NOTED THE GUB HAS NOT CATEGORICALLY TURNED DOWN THE IDEA OF A RELATIONSHIP WITH ASEAN, BUT THE CONTINUATION OF FOREIGN TROOPS IN THE ASEAN REGION DICTATES THAT BURMA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ASEAN SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE CAUTIOUS.

5. HOLBROOKE ASSURED U TIN LAT THAT THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE AN INTEREST AND BE ACTIVE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, ALTHOUGH THE U.S. HAS NO INTENTION OF REESTABLISHING ANY MILITARY PRESENCE ON THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN MAINLAND.  
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6. HOLBROOKE NOTED THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF DR. BOURNE TO RANGOON, AND ASKED THE AMBASSADOR WHETHER HE HAD COMMUNICATED TO RANGOON THE IMPORTANCE OF DR. BOURNE'S VISIT. U TIN LAT ASSURED THAT HE HAD DONE SO AND WAS CONFIDENT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE VISIT.

COMMENT: U TIN LAT MADE NO COMMENT ABOUT THE RECENT GUB LEADERSHIP CHANGES, OTHER THAN TO OBSERVE THAT THEY HAD JUST OCCURRED. HE WAS CONFIDENT NO CHANGES OF POLICY WOULD OCCUR WHICH WOULD IMPACT ON FOREIGN POLICY. U TIN LAT WAS FRANK IN DESCRIBING THE SAD STATE OF THE BURMESE ECONOMY, BUT ADDED THAT THERE IS "NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE" TO THE PRESENT REGIME AT THIS TIME. HE ALSO ADMITTED THAT HE KNEW LITTLE ABOUT THE SPECIFICS OF THE U.S.-BURMESE NARCOTICS COOPERATION EFFORT--A FACT WE HAVE OBSERVED PREVIOUSLY IN OUR RELATIONS WITH U TIN LAT HERE IN WASHINGTON.

CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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